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BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT



of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1954.

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

15th September, 1955.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1954.

This year there was a slight fall in the number of live-births, there being 74 compared with 85 last year and 70 in 1952. Deaths from all causes showed a slight increase, being 107 compared with 93 last year and 98 in 1952. There was only one death of an infant aged under one year. The incidence of infectious diseases, as shown by the notification returns, was remarkably low during the year.

Local Industries. - These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 604 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. - Exceptionally heavy rainfall which occurred during the summer months of the year maintained the yield from the springs and the R.A.F. Borehole at a high rate of flow and proved sufficient to maintain a good supply of water during the whole of the year without curtailing the supply.

An arrangement has been reached whereby water can be taken from the Tees Valley Water Board mains by a metered supply during periods of shortage.

Eleven samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Seven were in Class I, one in Class II, two in Class III and one in Class IV.

Of these, two samples were taken from the small spring at Fountain Head and were satisfactory. One of the samples taken from the main springs at Stoney Keld came under the heading of unsatisfactory from a bacteriological point of view.

As I have stated in previous reports it is very likely that during heavy rainfall, a certain amount of contamination gains access to the Stoney Keld Springs and originates from the surface of the moorland gathering grounds, and although I do not suggest that there is any appreciable danger of the spread of human infection in the water supply, the source of the supply is, during periods of heavy rainfall, liable to surface contamination.

Due to the constantly increasing demands for water for new housing development and the improvement in the sanitary conditions of houses and other premises in the older parts of the town, a lack of adequate pressure in the higher areas of supply is becoming apparent and will become more acute as the demand increases.

In view of the deficiencies in the water supply system in regard to bacteriological purity and lack of pressure, it is advisable that the Council should press for an early decision in the negotiations with the Tees Valley Water Board which would enable the Council to decide whether or not it would be advisable to proceed with the water scheme submitted to the Ministry some time ago by the Council's consulting engineers, which provided for the laying of a new main to the higher parts of the town to give reasonable pressure in that area; also for the chlorination of the water, and the fencing in of the reservoir.

Refuse Tip. - Tipping is proceeding in a westerly direction on land recently purchased for this purpose. As the tipping proceeds, the face of the tip is moving further from the highway.

During the year, the disused portion at the east end of the tip has been covered with a layer of earth, levelled to an even surface and resown with grass seed. Further areas will be similarly treated as the tip advances westwards and is filled to proper levels. The remainder of the land not at present required for tipping is let annually for grazing.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Works. - Since the installation of recirculation plant and additional humus tanks, the Sewage Disposal Works have been operated in a manner similar to that operating at the completion of experiments for the treatment of certain quantities of spent metabolite conducted by the officials of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Following a report by the D.S.I.R. on the additional works required to treat the spent metabolite, a scheme was prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers. The scheme has been considered by the officials of the factory concerned in the production of the waste spent metabolite and it has been decided by them that it is not their intention to proceed with the scheme at the present time. It is indicated that investigation is proceeding at the factory with a view to finding other means of pre-treatment of the spent metabolite before any further decision is made regarding alteration at the Sewage Disposal Works.

Closet Accommodation. - Eleven pail privies and one midden privy were in use at the end of the year, the remaining properties in the town being on the water carriage system.

During the year, one midden privy and five pail privies were discontinued. This was due to demolition of the properties which they served and one conversion to water closet.

Housing. - 47 Council and 9 private houses were completed during the year.

At the end of the year, a number of privately built houses were under construction and the third contract on the Council's Green Lane Housing Site, which is for 40 houses and 2 shops with flats above, was well advanced. When these houses in the third contract are completed, sites will be available for a further 70 dwellings on this site.

Negotiations for a site for further houses in Newgate (mentioned in the 1953 annual report), fell through and the proposal for building Council houses on this site was abandoned.

The number of applications on the Council's housing list at the end of the year was 163 compared with a figure of 203 at the end of 1953.

Housing Act, 1949. Section 20-25. - 4 houses were improved with the aid of improvement grants during the year. This brings the total number improved under this Act to 6.

Closing and Demolition Orders.

A. FORMAL ACTION.

(i)	Number of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	19
(ii)	Number of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	2
(iii)	Number of houses in Clearance Areas, demolition of which temporarily postponed	27
(iv)	Number of demolition orders made but houses not demolished during year	1

B. INFORMAL ACTION.

- (1) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above NIL

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during year by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :-

- (a) As a result of informal action 6
 (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice NIL
 (c) By local authority in default of owners NIL

Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954.

1 Certificate of Disrepair has been issued.

The survey required under the above to ascertain the number of unfit houses in the Council's area was commenced.

Provision of Houses by Local Authority.

	Situation	Bungalow and 1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms	TOTAL
Pre. 1939	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25 *
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	-	-	-	10
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre. 1939	14	35	20	10	79
Post 1939	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Zetland Road Extension (6	6			
	North Eastern Housing Assoc. (Flats	Flats			
		-	14	13	-	39
	Green Lane Site North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	40	2	64
	Total Post 1939.	14	62	175	20	271
	GRAND TOTAL	28	97	195	30	350
In course of erection	Green Lane 3rd Contract North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	24	10 + 2 Flats	6	42

* Comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Confirmed Clearance Areas.

No. of Clearance Area	Date area confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Occupiers 31/12/54	No. Demolished 31/12/54	No. Vacant 31/12/54
1 to 6	27/8/35	36	46	NIL	36	NIL
8	-do-	5	6	NIL	4	1
9	-do-	2	2	NIL	2	NIL
1 to 9		43	54	NIL	42	1
10	12/3/38	2	2	1	NIL	1
11	-do-	2	3	NIL	2	NIL
12	-do-	3	3	NIL	2	1
13	-do-	3	3	NIL	1	2
14	-do-	7	10	1	3	2
15	-do-	5	5	1	3	1
16	-do-	5	12	1	4	NIL
17	-do-	7	7	NIL	7	NIL
18	-do-	2	2	NIL	2	NIL
19	-do-	13	18	6	6	3
20	-do-	3	3	NIL	3	NIL
21	-do-	2	2	NIL	1	1
22	-do-	7	7	NIL	2	5
10 to 22		61	77	10	36	16
GRAND TOTAL		104	131	10	78	17

As shown above, progress has been made in removing these dangerously unsanitary dwellings. The number of families in occupation has been reduced from 23 to 10 and 15 premises have been demolished during the year.

A start on the demolition of 5 more premises had been made by the end of the year.

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 - Part I
Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	27	12	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	14	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers premises)	6	19	1
T O T A L ...	80	45	1

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork. - The number of outworkers remains at six. All are working in satisfactory conditions.

Tents and Caravans. - An application to station a trailer caravan on a site on The Bank was granted during the year.

An application to use Field O.S. No. 2 at the side of Red Well Inn as a camping ground was granted with conditions restricting the use to not more than 30 trailer caravans and tents at one time and requiring the maintenance of closet accommodation. The licence expires on 31st October, 1955.

The licence granted on 29th November, 1938, to use Field O.S. No. 58 as a camping ground was revoked from 31st July, 1953, on sanitary grounds. This site was used again in 1954 and the Council resolved to take action for using a camping site without a licence. The Court held that the Council had no power to revoke the licence issued in 1938.

Rodent Control. - The Rodent Operator who was formerly employed jointly by the Startforth Rural and Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Councils was employed in a temporary capacity to treat infestations in the Council's area. An employee on the Surveyor's staff attended a course of instruction given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and was employed as a standby.

The Council's sewers, sewage works and refuse tip were treated twice and 6 business, 4 agricultural and 20 domestic premises were treated during the year. The only major infestation was at the Council's refuse tip.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - Ice Cream. - There are no ice cream manufacturers in the town. Twenty six premises are licensed for the retail sale of ice cream. The greater part of the ice cream sold is wrapped at the place of manufacture.

Milk Retailers. - Seven retailers operate within the area. Six sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk bottled at the treatment plants. One retailer sells milk from a farm in the adjoining area.

Meat. - Slaughtering of animals for the Startforth Rural District and the Barnard Castle Urban and Rural District Council's took place until June in the centralised slaughterhouse in Vere Road. Subsequently the Council took over these premises for the use of the Urban butchers and passed a resolution under Section 61 (2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, that no licence to keep a slaughterhouse be granted. An appeal was made against this resolution by two butchers and an inquiry was held on 4th November, 1954. The findings of this inquiry were awaited at the end of the year.

Section 13. Food and Drugs Act, 1936. - During the year visits of inspection were made by the Sanitary Inspector to ice cream retailers, butchers premises, and fried fish establishments. An informal notice was sent to a butcher for an infringement of the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks - Notification of a case was received in October. The patient was an officer residing in Woodside. He was admitted to hospital on 12th October suffering from pain, vomiting and diarrhoea, and a diagnosis was made of salmonella food poisoning. It was not possible to trace the source of the infection. No other cases were notified.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS.

The following table shows the animals killed, inspected and found unfit for human consumption at the Slaughterhouse during the year ended 31st December, 1954.

	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs		
	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	S.S.
Number Killed	797	25	102	34	51	46	3706	110	1752	57	2
Number Inspected	797	25	102	34	51	46	3706	110	1752	57	2
<u>All Diseases</u> <u>except</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	-	3	-	10	-	12	1	20	-	3	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	139	16	10	17	-	1	16	26	66	17	-
Percentages of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	17.44	76.00	9.80	79.41	-	28.26	0.46	41.81	3.56	35.09	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	40	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
Percentages of number inspect- ed affected with Tuberculo- sis	5.39	-	9.80	8.82	-	-	-	-	0.64	-	-

Key to Diagram. -

- C.C. - Animals from a Collecting Centre.
- Cas. - Animals received as Casualties.
- S.S. - Ministry of Food Self-Supplying Scheme (Cottage Pigs).

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's Estimated figure - mid-year 1954)	4,870
Number of inhabited houses	1,564
Rateable Value	£30,262
Sum represented by a penny rate	£110.14. 3.

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum, Mr. Thomas Wake, for permission to include the following table.

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1954, compiled from the Bowes Museum.

Observation Station:	Bowes Museum,
Observer:	Thomas Wake, Curator and Secretary for the Trustees of the Bowes Museum.

Height of Gauge above Sea Level	550 feet.
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<u>1954.</u>	<u>Ins.</u>	
January	2.85	
February	2.54	
March	1.64	
April	.70	
May	3.78	
June	2.08	
July	1.13	
August	5.32	
September	3.17	
October	5.21	
November	6.04	
December	2.99	
	<u>37.45</u>	
Average 5 years. 1950 - 55.	31.42	
	37.45	1954
	24.67	1953
	23.09	1952
	37.84	1951
	34.04	1950

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate	} 74 {	70	34	36
	Illegitimate		4	1	3

Crude Birth Rate 15.0 per 1,000 home population.
Adjusted Rate 14.9 " " "
Corresponding Rate for England and Wales 15.2.

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate	} 4 {	3	2	1
	Illegitimate		1	-	1

Still Birth Rate - per 1,000 home population - 0.82.
Still Birth Rate for previous year - 0.83.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths	107	52	55

Crude Death Rate - 21.7 per 1,000 home population.
Adjusted Rate - 16.5 " " "
For England and Wales - 11.3.

Deaths of Infants Under One Year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	-	1
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	-	-
Legitimate	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year.

All Infants (per 1,000 live-births) 13.5.

Causes of Deaths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Cancer (all types)	7	6	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	9	24
Coronary disease, angina	4	6	10
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart disease	14	18	32
Other circulatory disease	1	8	9
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	1	-
	<u>52</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>107</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Only 8 cases of infectious diseases (not including Tuberculosis or Food Poisoning) were notified during the year. This is the lowest total recorded in the area for more than 14 years. It is satisfactory to note that Scarlet Fever which used to be rather prevalent in the town (1940 - 29 cases, 1942 - 20 cases, 1927 - 27 cases) has had in recent years a considerably lower incidence. Only two cases were notified during the present year, one being a "surgical" type, i.e. resulting from a localised infection of a wound. There were again no cases of diphtheria notified.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning)
during the year 1954.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Admitted to</u> <u>Hospital</u>	<u>Diagnosis</u> <u>not</u> <u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Cases</u>
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	-	-	1
Measles	4	-	-	4
Erysipelas	1	-	-	1

Analysis of the Total cases (confirmed) in age groups.

	Under one Year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	-	1	2	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet Fever	2	27	2	1	5	4	5	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	50	60	2	147	27	-	117	4
Whooping Cough	18	9	5	45	4	9	23	-
Poliomylitis	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	2	2	1	3	5	3	1
Erysipelas	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-

Diphtheria Immunisation. - According to the records received at the County Health Department, 54 children aged under 15 years were given a primary course of immunisation. This compares with 56 in 1953, 56 in 1952, 50 in 1951 and 70 in 1950. In addition, 36 children were given re-inforcing injections.

Responsibility for the provision of facilities for immunisation and for the maintenance of propaganda now rests with the County Health Department. Facilities are provided at the child welfare centre for the immunisation of children under five and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Leaflets drawing attention to the need for immunisation are distributed by post at the age of eight months and twelve months, and to encourage re-inforcing doses, at the age of four years nine months. The County Health Visitor visits children who have not been immunised.

In addition, advice and reminders are given to parents by the School Medical Officer at the annual medical inspection of schools.

In May and June, by arrangement with the County Education Authority, two sessions for immunisation were held in the Barnard Castle Infants School. At these sessions, 10 children were given a primary course of immunisation, and 5 were given re-inforcing injections.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year ended
31st December, 1954.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1954.

Age at date of Final injection		Total Under 15
0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	
43	11	54

Tuberculosis.

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 and over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Staff. - The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer. A grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are whole-time Officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and portions by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town, and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals. - There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases or children, in the area.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities. - I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

T A B L E A

	Bishop Auckland No. 14 Control Area. [*]	Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.
Ambulance Controls	1	NIL
Clerk-telephonists	4	NIL
Ambulance Depots	5	2
Ambulances	15	2
Sitting-Case Cars	1	NIL
Driver-Attendants	42	4

^{*} Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area, the column adjoining showing the depots etc., actually situated within the districts. The whole of the facilities provided in the Control Area are available to the districts. The Ambulance Control is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed by 4 clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

T A B L E B .

Summary of work done during 1954 by vehicles
stationed in Barnard Castle Urban and Rural
Districts.

Journeys	Cases Carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
1003	453	4387	4840	59917

Note. In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed in vehicles from neighbouring depots within the County Area and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary districts order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

Nursing Arrangements.

Home Nursing. - Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. The agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, whereby the Durham County Council delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, ceased to exist on 1st April, and the County Council took over direct administration from this date.

Direct control was also assumed by the County Council of the arrangements made for the provision of a domiciliary midwife service.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area by two District Nurse Midwives resident in the town. During the year 61 midwifery and 73 general cases were attended. Visits amounting to 2,065 were paid to general cases.

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress - Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.), chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle, under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee. - The Committee, of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officer's reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White, and to Mr. E. Dixon, Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

